

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 PPT-02 DODE-00 SSO-00 PRS-01

SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 RSC-01 SCA-01 /051 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

CDR AF13 IMMEDIATE

CINCPACAF IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019257

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, VS, PF, CH, US

SUBJECT: PARACELS--KOSH RELEASE

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: A) HONG KONG 1021, B) GENEVA 567

C) PEKING 0171 D) HONG KONG 0985 (ALL NOTAL)

1. DEPT CONCURS IN REASONING OUTLINED REFTTEL A. WHILE

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WE DO NOT HAVE FIRM WORD ON ALL QUESTIONS RAISED THEREIN,

FOLLOWING IS PRELIMINARY INFO.

2. AMERICAN RED CROSS WASHINGTON HAS TELEGRAPHED ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN JAPAN, EUGENE BURKE, THAT EITHER HE OR A SUBSTITUTE IS TO DEPART AT ONCE FOR HONG KONG AND CONTACT CONGEN UPON ARRIVAL.

3. WE ASSUME VIETNAMESE ARE MAKING THEIR OWN PLANS TO TRANSPORT THEIR NATIONALS TO SAIGON, AND WE PREFER THAT SOLUTION. DOD IS SENDING SEPTTEL TO CINCPAC TO ARRANGE FOR C-9 HOSPITAL PLANE TO PROCEED TO HONG KONG TO PICK UP KOSH AND FLY HIM TO CLARK FOR TREATMENT AND DEBRIEFING. PLAN BASED ON ASSUMPTION KOSH CONCURS IN GOING TO CLARK. REQUEST CONGEN START OBTAINING CLEARANCE FOR THE AIRCRAFT.

4. DEPT CONCURS IN CONGEN'S REEMPHASIZING TO HONG KONG GOVT DESIRABILITY OF TIGHT LIMITATION ON ACCESSIBILITY OF PRESS TO KOSH. ASIDE FROM POSSIBLE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF PRISONER RELEASE, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY PRC THAT KOSH HAS ACUTE HEPATITIS, AND WE BELIEVE THAT UNTIL HIS MEDICAL CONDITION HAS BEEN EVALUATED, ONLY MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND THOSE ASSISTING IN HIS TRANSPORTATION SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO HIM.

5. RE PARA 3 REFTTEL B, DEPT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR CONGEN REPRESENTATIVE TO BE PRESENT TO WELCOME KOSH.

6. IF NECESSARY, ISSUANCE OF PASSPORT TO KOSH AUTHORIZED.

7. FOR SAIGON. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP WHAT ARRANGEMENTS GVN IS MAKING TO TRANSPORT VIETNAMESE NATIONALS BEING RELEASED.
KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POW, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, ISLAND CLAIMS, POW RETURN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE019257
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KCDUGALL:CED
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974018/aaaaagqj.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) HONG KONG 1021, B) GENEVA 567
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARACELS--KOSH RELEASE CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, VS, PF, CH, US, (KOSH, GERALD)
To: HONG KONG SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005